

went through that achieved that funding for these projects he read off for the State of Arizona.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. I am sorry the Senator from Arizona had to come back. Certainly as indicated on the RECORD, I only had positive things to say about the Senator from Arizona.

I do say—and he and I have a disagreement on how bills like this should come to be—I believe that we as a legislative branch of Government have an obligation to make independent decisions separate and apart from the administration. I do not feel I have any obligation to follow what the bureaucrats say we should appropriate.

The Senator from Arizona and I came to the Congress together. I have the greatest admiration for him, not only for what he has done in his professional life as a Member of Congress but, of course, what he did before he came here.

So it has nothing to do with how I feel about the Senator from Arizona. It has to do with the basic difference in what I feel is an obligation a Member of Congress has. It is a legitimate difference. It has nothing to do on a personal basis, and I will continue to work as hard as I can with the Senator on campaign finance reform and also to fund projects for the State of Arizona as a member of this subcommittee, as long as I am ranking member, in a fair and impartial way, getting direction from the bureaucrats but not following necessarily what they have to say.

Mr. McCAIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. May I say I appreciate the words of the Senator from Nebraska—Nevada. I appreciate any from Nebraska, too. But I appreciate the words of the Senator from Nevada. He and I have been friends now since 1982 when we came to the House together. We have worked together on a variety of issues, including native American and many others. Our difference, as he states, is a philosophical one. I don't believe there is an orderly process that judges these projects on merit, and that is just a difference that we have had for many, many years.

I admire his adherence to what he believes is best not only for Nevada but for the country. I respect that, and I know that my words in criticism of this procedure have nothing to do with the enormous respect and affection that I have for him and the chairman of the subcommittee and the chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator DOMENICI.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Senator very much.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a pe-

riod for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHRISTOPHER MEILI

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I thank the chairman and my good friend, Senator DOMENICI, and Senator REID for giving me this opportunity to address what I consider to be the acts of a courageous individual and the fact that the House today acted in a bipartisan manner, unanimously passing S. 768, a bill to give to Christopher Meili the opportunity to live in this country, and to say once again that America understands the courage exhibited by Christopher Meili in his extraordinary action in reporting and making public the destruction of documents in Switzerland at great peril to himself and to his family. He was ostracized for this act. He was threatened with death. His family, his two children, can no longer live in their own country. Once again, America has opened its heart and its doors.

The House, in an extraordinary act, has given him the opportunity to live here, to work here, to raise his family. Christopher Meili is a noble man whose actions ennobled all of us, and he has suffered greatly for his courage in exposing the truth. Now he simply desires to live in freedom here in America with his family, and now he can.

I spoke to Christopher earlier today and told him that the House of Representatives had completed action and that it had passed the legislation, and now it awaits the President's signature. I am certain that the President will continue the process of making possible Christopher's staying here in this country and giving to him the freedom that he yearns for himself and his family.

Mr. President, I commend those of my colleagues who, by way of their action in passing this legislation, have given Christopher an opportunity to live here in this country, and we once again demonstrate that we understand the extraordinary sacrifices that this young man made in the cause of freedom.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATION BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, during the debate on S. 1005, the defense appropriations bill this morning, I expressed several concerns about section 8097 of that bill. While I appreciate Senator INOUE amending section 8097 to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the construction of the new cruise ships that would result from this pilot project. I still have serious concerns about the provision that would grant a 25-year monopoly in the Hawaii cruise ship market for the only cruise ship operator in Hawaii.

This legislative restriction on commerce is unprecedented and must not be granted. The existing U.S.-flag cruise ship operator in Hawaii is already protected from foreign competition by U.S. coastwise trade laws. That company has operated without statutory protection from domestic competition for more than a decade. There is no compelling reason to provide such protection now. I'm sure that many businesses would like to reduce their cost of capital to replace their infrastructure by convincing their lenders that their company is protected from any competition in its market. However, the Congress has not provided such protection in the past and we should not do so now.

I would also note that the provision provides a special waiver to the coastwise trade laws, which is somewhat extraordinary and should be examined for its fairness and appropriateness. While I am not a member of the Appropriations Committee I intend to vigorously pursue the modification of section 8097 to eliminate this egregious provision during the conference on S. 1005.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. McCathran, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 15, 1997, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 768. An act for the relief of Michel Christopher Meili, Giuseppina Meili, Mirjam Naomi Meili, and Davide Meili.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BENNETT, from the Committees on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 1019. An original bill making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-47).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first